

Small Group Discussion Guide — February 7, 2021

- Series: Way / Truth / Life
 - Sermon: The Intimate Jesus
 - Scripture: John 13: 1-17, Luke 7: 36-39
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

Andrew Brunson repeatedly refers to his “friendship with God.” How does that phrase strike you? Do you consider your relationship with God a friendship? Why or why not?

CONNECT:

1. What stood out to you from this past week’s service, and why?
2. Describe a time when you were surprised or taken back by the generous gesture or action of a friend?

ENGAGE:

1. Read John 13:1-3.
 - What significant truths are stated in this short but powerful passage? How does Jesus’ “long game” (heaven is home, union with Christ is where the depth and meaning of life is) differ from his disciples expectations?
 - How do these verses set up the powerful paradox that is about to happen (Jesus washing the disciples’ feet)?
2. Read John 13:4-17. Imagine you are Peter. What are you feeling as you watch Jesus bend to wash your friends’ feet? How do you think you would respond when it was your turn? What do Peter’s responses tell you about his understanding of what Jesus is doing? About his faith in and devotion to Jesus?
3. Read Luke 7: 36-39. Which character from this story best describes your feelings as the scene plays out? Are you the...
 - Pharisee - uncomfortable and falling back on religious rules
 - Disciples - stunned into an uncomfortable silence
 - Woman - completely humbled and poured out at Jesus’ feet
 - Jesus - comfortable and comforting in a very intimate moment

APPLY:

1. Jesus is no longer walking the earth, engaging people as he moves from place to place. What does intimacy with Jesus look like in the here and now? How is intimacy with Jesus something we can foster in our own lives?
2. How have you chosen the *urgent* over the *important* in your life? What falls into the category of “important” in your life that needs to be prioritized differently? How do Jesus’ words and actions in the Upper Room give us insight into the right way to do this?
3. David said that we live much of our Christian life in John 13:7: “Jesus answered him, ‘What I am doing, you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.’” What is something

that has happened to you which you did not understand at the time, but in hindsight and prayer you understand in a new and profound way?

PRAY:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, draw us ever closer to you, today and every day. Give us hearts that long to chase after your heart. Give us eyes to see what is important and not miss it by focusing on the urgent. Keep us from chasing the false hopes of this world, knowing that you are our one true hope. Help us to love others as we are loved. Amen

GOING DEEPER

1. Describe an example of the blessings you have received from
 - A. Serving others
 - B. Being served by others
2. How do we turn what we know into what we do? Find a local service project that your group can do together. Check out hopecentral.com/outreach for some ideas.

SUPPORTING VERSES

Friendly reminder: Download one of the Bible apps on your phone or tablet to have quick access to the many different versions of scripture available.

Luke 7: 36-39

Philippians 2: 5-9

QUOTES

“Since we all inherently bear the image of God, we also inherently have dignity. We do not give people dignity; God gives it to them, but we must work to affirm it in others and ourselves.”
John Perkins

“Charles Lamb put it well when chatting with a group of friends one night: ‘If Alexander the Great or Charlemagne or Napoleon were to come into the room, we would all stand up out of respect. If Jesus Christ walked in, we would fall on our faces in adoration.’”
Leighton Ford

“St. Paul’s description of Jesus is in the phrase ‘emptied himself’ (Phil. 2:7). This is often cited as the center point in the work of Incarnation, the making of our salvation. *Kenosis*. Emptying is prelude to filling. The Son of God empties himself of prerogative, of divine rights, of status and reputation, in order to be the one whom God uses to fill up creation and creatures with the glory of salvation.”
Eugene Peterson

“Advancing the Spiritual Life with Jesus means becoming more and more like him by...

- Intimacy with God and people
- Speaking the truth in love
- Seeking the Kingdom
- Serving humbly”

David Dwight